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START-UP 2003



The faces and places at George Brown as a new school year begins.

Scholarship, gymnasium will be permanent reminders of retiring Athletics manager

Long-time George Brown employee Alex Barbier may have retired from the college, but his name and memory will be around for many years to come.

The St. James Campus gymnasium has been renamed the Alex Barbier Gymnasium in honour of Barbier, who was the manager of Athletics and Student Life for most of his 29 years at the college.

"It represents the contribution Alex has made to countless students and youth in the community over the years he's been at the college," says President Frank Sorochinsky. "His impact has been incredible. He's a wonderful example of the best of our college and its place in the community."

In addition to renaming the gym, Sorochinsky says a \$20,000 scholarship has been created in Barbier's name. While details of the scholarship haven't been finalized, it will recognize students at George Brown who combine athletic and academic excellence.

"Alex's contribution has been outstanding, helping young people not only in their athletic pursuits but also by insisting they put their



The sign is presented to Alex Barbier by Peter Lawrence and Eugene Harrigan.

education first and use their time here to create opportunities for themselves," says Sorochinsky. "I think this is an appropriate way to remember Alex and to remind ourselves what he stands for."

Barbier's retirement was celebrated with a party at Siegfried's on June 12. Colleague and friend Denise Pontone, program co-ordinator in the LIAD department, emceed the event. She says

almost 200 people attended, including past and present George Brown students, faculty and staff, colleagues from other colleges, and Barbier's wife, Shirley, his three children, his daughter-in-law and his granddaughter. Also in attendance were a number of former college senior managers, including former president John Rankin, former vice-president Jim Turner and former registrar George Burton.

Donations came in from across the country, says Pontone, and in addition to contributing to the college scholarship in Barbier's name, the funds raised will be used to set up scholarships for post-secondary education for Barbier's two younger children and his grandchildren.

"Alex's children have always helped out at the college, volunteering at special functions and doing laundry for the gym," says Pontone. "It was Alex's wish to set up scholarships for his

children rather than receive a gift himself."

Pontone says the evening featured a comic video made for the occasion by Tony Hassel, gift presentations and a number of speakers, including Barbier's close friend and colleague Bob Dungey, Frank Sorochinsky, Susan Stylianos, Barbier and Barbier's son Alex Jr., who talked about the wonderful example his father set for him growing up. His colleagues in Athletics presented him with a new bike to enjoy in his spare time.

"It was an amazing evening and a very emotional one for Alex," says Pontone. "He was left speechless when Frank Sorochinsky announced that the gym would be renamed the Alex Barbier Gymnasium.

"He will be greatly missed around here," adds Pontone. "He's such an enthusiastic and incredibly giving person."



Noia Todd presents Alex Barbier with an award noting his many years of contribution to the Convocation ceremony.

Student nurses win awards



Left to right are Julie Gaudet (faculty), Blessing Osawaru, Melanie Beaudry, Terri Lynn Beaton, Jillian Monize, Marion Goltz (faculty), Melissa Quan, Lawrence Asiedu, Joan Lloyd (faculty) and Allison Patrick (faculty).

Outstanding nursing students at George Brown were recognized at a "welcome back" tea and awards ceremony held September 8.

The Theresa V. Brissett Scholarship was awarded to Jillian Monize, a third year Bachelor of Science in Nursing student. The scholarship,

established in his mother's name by George Brown alumnus and Premier's Award winner, Dr. Anthony Brissett, is presented to a student who shows the most improvement from first year to second year.

Four nursing students received Sally Quan Memorial Bursaries for their demonstrated

excellence in patient care and strong leadership skills. Lawrence Asiedu, sixth semester Registered Nurse diploma program, Melanie Beaudry, second year Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Leon Likunga, fifth semester Registered Nurse diploma program and Blessing Osawaru, second year

Bachelor of Science in Nursing, received \$500 bursaries.

Melissa Quan presented the bursaries, which are awarded in memory of her mother, a former member of the faculty of Nursing at George Brown.

Terri Lynn Beaton, a third year Bachelor of Science in Nursing student, was the only George Brown student to win one of three Sopman Humanitarian Awards from the University Health Network. The \$1,000 award recognizes humanity, compassion, understanding and clinical and academic excellence among students in training at University Health Network.

The Kathy Parker Award, established by friends of the former George Brown Nursing teacher, was awarded to three Nursing students who demonstrated clinical excellence. Jennifer Hamilton, Lilya Ashkenazy and Renee Lehnen graduated from the Registered Nursing diploma program in June.

ECE students share, learn in Jamaican classrooms

Early Childhood Education students at George Brown will have the opportunity to do their final field placement in Jamaica as part of an international outreach project by the Centre for Early Childhood Development and the Association of Canadian Community Colleges.

It's a unique opportunity for students to share their knowledge and to learn from working within a different culture and with limited resources, says ECE professor Lynn Wilson.

While one in five people in Jamaica live in poverty, 50 per cent of whom are children, the country also has demonstrated a strong commitment to early childhood education, including

developing a national curriculum for babies and children up to six years, says Wilson.

This spring, Wilson, ECE faculty Gail Hunter and 10 ECE graduates spent two weeks in Jamaica, working in the schools with children and hosting workshops for teachers. The group was also able to bring 500 children's resource bags and 25 binders filled with teaching supplies to the schools, thanks to donations from the John C. and Sally Horsfall Eaton Foundation and many individuals.

"It was an amazing experience for the students," says Wilson. "They learned so much from the children and the teachers and came away with greater confidence in themselves."

One of the student teachers who participated, Sarah Mowat, one of the student teachers who participated, said she felt at home in Jamaica despite the challenges.

"The conditions in the schools are nothing like what we as ECEs in Toronto are used to. Yet the teachers continue to have a positive outlook on teaching, they love what they do," says Mowat. "The teachers made me feel welcome and they treated me with so much respect."

With the five-year outreach project established with funding by the Canadian International Development Agency under the Canadian College Partnership Program, Wilson says students in the ECE program at George

Brown will be able to spend four weeks working in Jamaican classrooms as part of their final field placement.

To help raise funds for the project and the student placements, the Centre for Early Childhood Development is holding a second annual Jammin' to Jamaica on Thursday November 20 at Siegfried's.

The event, which coincides with National Day of the Child, will feature a four-course Jamaican dinner followed by a silent auction. Tickets for the event are \$60. For more information, tickets or to make a donation to the silent auction, please contact Lynn Wilson at 416-415-5000 ext. 2340 or lwilson@brown.on.ca.

Risk in drug use is focus of mental health conference

The college is celebrating World Mental Health Day with a conference featuring Dr. David Healy, internationally acclaimed speaker and author of *Let Them Eat Prozac*.

Presented by the Redirection Through Education program in co-operation with Training Services, the conference will be held Wednesday, October 22 at the George Brown College Auditorium.

Healy, a psychiatrist and psychopharmacologist from Wales, will deliver the keynote address. Currently a Visiting

Professor at the University of Toronto, Healy's talk, entitled *Marketing Madness: How Pharmaceutical Companies Shape the Way We Think*, will address the changing nature of mental health and the need for people to become better informed.

The conference will also feature a personal reflection by former Toronto Maple Leafs hockey player Ron Ellis. Responses to the keynote address will be delivered by two mental health experts — Lana Prado, Executive

Director of Sound Times Support Services, and Don Wasylenki, Chair of the University of Toronto Department of Psychiatry and psychiatrist-in-chief at St. Michael's Hospital.

The afternoon session will feature an interview between Healy and CBC Television journalist Suhana Meharchand. Former CBC Radio journalist and broadcaster Elizabeth Gray will moderate the conference.

The conference runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and lunch

will be provided.

Regular registration is \$100 but George Brown faculty and staff are entitled to the agency rate of \$75. George Brown students can attend for the unemployed rate of \$35.

For other information about the conference or to make a donation to support a consumer/survivor to attend the conference, please contact Rosalind Gilbert at 316-415-5000 ext. 2641 or rgilbert@gbrownc.on.ca.

Project goal is helping young cancer survivors succeed

The college is participating in a project aimed at helping young cancer survivors make the transition from high school to post-secondary education and employment.

The Successful Academic and Vocational Transition Initiative — or SAVTI — is a pilot project between George Brown College, the Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario and the Hospital for Sick Children.

Robyn Lange, co-ordinator of the project, says it grew out of recognition that young people who survive pediatric can-

cer often face physical and cognitive challenges as a result of the cancer or its treatment. In addition, advances in cancer treatment mean many more of these young people are living beyond what was previously expected.

"As a result, some of these young people are graduating from high school with unique physical, cognitive and psychosocial needs," says Lange. "The SAVTI project will look for ways to support young cancer survivors to succeed academically and vocationally — factors which have

been shown to significantly improve the quality of their lives."

Lange says the project is operating under the umbrella of services and programs in the Access Centre, where the focus on customized service delivery and the implementation of various strategies to increase student success is consistent with the philosophy of the SAVTI project.

Taking an individualized approach, the project will assist young cancer survivors in gaining access to post-secondary programs, assessing

their career options, developing strategies for success and accessing resources for funding and support to achieve their education and employment objectives.

"Ultimately, a model of best practices will be developed and used throughout the province," says Lange.

Lange says the project is up and running and available to assist any faculty or students currently dealing with these issues. Please contact her at 416-415-5000 ext. 4798 or rlange@gbrownc.on.ca.



Revving up, this year's volunteers for the United Way Campaign

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